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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 772
By Eckles

A RESOLUTION to name and designate May 21, 2000, as
"Murfreesboro Police Day".

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquillity of the community as a whole,
society recognizes the need for a system of laws; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of such laws has been entrusted to a small number of
dedicated individuals; and

WHEREAS, these individuals, known as law enforcement officers, daily face the rigors of
human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the City of Murfreesboro joins the United States in remembering and
memorializing National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, as established by the United States
Congress in 1962 and signed into law by President John F. Kennedy of that year; and

WHEREAS, May 15 of each year is designated as National Peace Officers' Memorial
Day, which is observed in conjunction with being National Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the first National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service was held in
Washington, D.C. on May 15, 1982, while the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial was
dedicated in our nation's capitol on October 15, 1991; and

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WHEREAS, the 103rd Congress amended the law in 1994 to direct that the U.S. flag be lowered to half-staff on National Peace Officers' Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded police death in 1794, there have been more than 15,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, 1,596 law enforcement officers have given their lives in the line of duty during the last 10 years, an average of one death every 54 hours or 160 per year. In 1998, 156 police officers died, which represented a slight decrease from the 160 officers who died in 1997; and

WHEREAS, on average, more than 62,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year and some 21,000 are injured; and

WHEREAS, engraved on the Memorial Wall in Washington are the names of 828 federal officers, 338 correctional officers, and 31 military law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, in addition to the local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the first African American police officer to be killed in the line of duty was Patrolman John Wilson of the Portsmouth, Virginia, Police Department on November 11, 1871; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, for the first time in United States history, the number of Police officers killed in line of duty exceeded 100; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 1924, Mary T. Davis became the first female officer to die in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the oldest officer to die in the line of duty was Dotson "Pop" Sutton, who was 80 years of age at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 35 million crimes are committed in the United States, an average of more than one crime every second. This is the lowest level of crime in

nearly 25 years. Violent crime rates have declined by 21 percent since they peaked in 1993, and non-violent crimes have dropped by 22 percent since 1993; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are the first line of defense between criminals and law-abiding citizens, and they must often make life and death decisions in an instant; they are trained not only to enforce the law, but to do so without prejudice or malice, while using good judgment and discretion, and in the highest regard to the constitutional rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, they must possess a general knowledge of medicine and psychology, as well as courage, courtesy, respect and self-restraint. They can never allow their personal feelings to influence their decisions; and

WHEREAS, officers recognize that the badge is a symbol of public trust, and they must be forever mindful of the trust placed in them. They must strive to earn that trust, even in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that those officers who have dedicated their lives to the service of humanity through law enforcement, and those officers who have given their lives in this noble cause, be recognized and remembered for the accomplishment of their high purposes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby proclaim May 21, 2000, as "Murfreesboro Police Day" in honor of the brave and valiant service rendered by the many law enforcement officers throughout the city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and delivered to its sponsor for presentation.